

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A milling cutter comprising a body having three cutting edges formed by the body, and a fastening end, each cutting edge being continuously curved from an outer periphery of the body substantially to a center rotational axis of the body along a substantially convexly curved path, wherein radially outer and
5 radially inner ends of each cutting edge being situated axially rearwardly of an axially foremost point of the cutting edge, each cutting edge lying substantially on a respective imaginary sphere having a center spaced from the cutting edge in a direction toward the fastening end and spaced radially from the center axis.
- 10 2. The milling cutter according to claim 1 wherein a radially outer end of each cutting edge is spaced axially by a distance from a plane containing the axially foremost points of all of the cutting edges.
3. The milling cutter according to claim 2 wherein the distance is 10-15% of a largest outer diameter of the body.
- 15 4. The milling cutter according to claim 1 wherein the radius of each imaginary sphere is about one-half of a largest outer diameter of the body.
5. The milling cutter according to claim 1 wherein a radial distance from the axis to the axially foremost point of each cutting edge is substantially equal to a radial distance from the axis to the center of each imaginary sphere.
- 20 6. The milling cutter according to claim 1 where the body comprises cemented carbide; each cutting edge defined by an intersection of a clearance surface and a chip surface of the body, each clearance surface being convexly arch-shaped.

7. The milling cutter according to claim 1 wherein the cutting edges are evenly spaced apart about the axis.

8. The milling cutter according to claim 1 wherein the body includes a conical shank forming a hook, the hook defining the cutting end.

5 9. The milling cutter according to claim 1 wherein the body includes a conical shank disposed axially rearwardly of the cutting edges.

10 10. The milling cutter according to claim 9 wherein the radially outer ends of the cutting edge lie in an imaginary cylindrical extension of an envelope surface of the shank, and lie radially outside of a cylindrical portion of the body interconnecting the shank with the cutting edges.

11. The milling cutter according to claim 1 wherein each cutting edge is convexly curved in the direction of rotation of the body as viewed in a direction along the axis.

15 12. The milling cutter according to claim 10 wherein each cutting edge has an elliptical shape as viewed in the direction along the axis.

13. The milling cutter according to claim 10 wherein each cutting edge is shaped as a segment of a circle as viewed in the direction along the axis.

14. The milling cutter according to claim 10 wherein each cutting edge has a parabolic shape as viewed in the direction along the axis.